

## **ARIZONA PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

### **Summary of Minutes**

**March 26, 2002**

#### **Voting Members Present:**

Chairman Dennis A. Garrett, Director, Arizona Department of Public Safety  
Ray Allen, Assistant Fire Chief, City of Tucson Fire Department  
David Bennett, Assistant Police Chief, representing Harold Hurtt, Chief, Phoenix Police Department  
Michael F. Fusco, Fire Chief, Arizona Fire Chiefs Association  
Joe Gibson, Communications Center Manager, representing Roy Ryak, Director of EMS Services,  
Rural/Metro Ambulance  
Larry Stevens, Commander, representing Danny Sharp, Chief, Oro Valley Police Department  
Lou Trammell, Assistant Director, representing Michael Austin, Director, Arizona Division of  
Emergency Management  
Bill Washington, Captain, representing Richard Miranda, Chief, Tucson Police Department

#### **Voting Members Absent:**

Harry Beck, Deputy Chief, Phoenix Fire Department  
Hal Collett, La Paz County Sheriff, Arizona Sheriffs Association  
John Corder, Chief, Show Low Police Department  
Jan Hauk, President, Arizona Fire District Association

#### **Other Attendees:**

Eddy Cheng, EDP Manager, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission  
Terry Conner, Commander, Arizona Department of Public Safety  
Ken DuBois, Sergeant, Phoenix Police Department  
David Felix, Lt. Colonel/CJSD Assistant Director, Arizona Department of Public Safety  
Ward Fleger, Deputy Chief, Mesa Fire Department  
Calvin Hess, Administrative Manager, Pinal County Sheriffs Office  
Joe Hindman, CSB Police Administrator, Phoenix Police Department  
Curt Knight, Telecommunications Bureau Manager, Arizona Department of Public Safety  
Jeff Miner, Communications Engineer, City of Phoenix  
Pat Nelson, Records Program Coordinator, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission  
Don Pfohl, Communications Director, City of Mesa  
Bill Phillips, Telecommunications Administrator, City of Phoenix  
Robert Ramming, Project Management, Government Information Technology Agency  
Scott Tillman, Telecommunications Engineer, Arizona Department of Public Safety  
Liz Wallendorf, Project Manager, City of Tucson  
John Wilcox, EMS Manager, Air Evac Services, Inc.  
Paul Wilson, Captain, Pima County Sheriff's Department

#### **Call to Order**

Director Dennis Garrett opened the meeting at 1:15 p.m. Introductions of the attendees took place.

#### **Minutes**

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A motion was made by David Bennett to accept the minutes of December 6, 2001, and January 22, 2002, seconded by Michael Fusco. Motion passed.

### **Southern Arizona Public Safety Communications Summit**

The Director mentioned this was a very worthwhile endeavor and appreciated City of Tucson's efforts in putting this together. Representative Kolbe talked about the communication needs pertaining to law enforcement, and what he is willing to do, and hopes to do, as far as assisting. There was a presentation by the PSWN program, and a panel discussion on issues facing the challenges and opportunities for the first responders in communications. The meeting was very productive and they discussed what we're doing statewide and how that plays in to what the Southern part of the state needs to do and how we need to make sure there's a good fit. As a result of that meeting, the City of Tucson, Information Technology Department will follow up with a survey to maintain a level of awareness and find out where they are with their communications systems. They are looking towards the Arizona one-day conference to bring that together.

David Felix pointed out that what was being discussed today is a continuation of the education efforts by the committee or the PSWN program. We need to take advantage of that time to educate those people that are ultimately making these decisions. The attendance for Tucson was around 300 people, with a good cross section of public safety representation.

### **Northern Arizona Public Safety Communications Summit**

Curt Knight mentioned the Northern Arizona Public Safety Communications Summit is scheduled for Thursday, March 28, 2002. From a Regional standpoint they are also trying to get the message out. Kevin Rogers is organizing the meetings as a means to generate interest for the Arizona one-day conference on April 30, 2002.

### **Arizona one-day Conference - April 30, 2002**

David Felix advised that 130 people are registered for the conference. PSWN touched 500 different entities from their database. It still requires everyone to get the word out. David recommended notifying your own interest groups. He emphasized that although it is not limited, the target audience is the decision makers, the policy makers, and politicians who will ultimately be responsible for finding funding to support your systems. Notices were sent out to chiefs, sheriffs, and all legislators. The agenda for April 30, was reviewed and discussed. It was emphasized that PSWN provides a lot of opportunity for input from the participants during these conferences.

### **Grant Request for Needs Assessment Funding Update**

Pat Nelson, ACJC Records Program Coordinator, provided an update on the grant request for the Radio Communications Interoperability Analysis Project. The Bureau of Justice received and approved the request on March 6, 2002. It was forwarded to the comptrollers office because further approval was needed for permission to use more than the \$450 allotted per day, for consultant fees. The time frame is quite aggressive.

- ▶ ACJC expects to have the funds by June 1, 2002
- ▶ Grant monies to be transferred to DPS by June 15, 2002
- ▶ DPS to issue RFP or select vendor by July 1, 2002

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- ▶ DPS and vendor to complete signing of contract by August 1, 2002
- ▶ Draft of interoperability analysis report delivered to DPS and ACJC (for review) by November 30, 2002
- ▶ Vendor to submit final report to ACJC, DPS, and PSCC by December 31, 2002
- ▶ Presentation of analysis results to DPS, ACJC, and PSCC by January 31, 2003

### **Needs Assessment RFP Update**

Curt Knight reported that the ideal situation would be a 700 MHz statewide system, with the concept that it would dovetail into some of the regional systems starting to develop in the metro areas, as well as Tucson and Pima County area, and possibly Yuma and NAU/Flagstaff. Ideally it would take a long time for all agencies that are interested to migrate onto such a system. What would be a migration plan for them, and then a backfill of how you maintain what level of interoperability you have today with those you are leaving behind. Another level would be those that do want to migrate but have to go through 3 to 4 budget cycles before they are able to plan. How do we improve upon them or make sure that it is maintained and not leave them behind. It is important to address the issues during the procurement phase. This was the straw man put forward, out of the Technical subcommittee.

David Felix said that in discussing this with consultants familiar with this, it sounds as though they would offer a design concept of how to either develop and/or build a standard platform and based on that, there would be alternatives for the other agencies to migrate on the system. The amount of money that has been allocated would give us a good product to start the next phase of development. The plan should have several phases and different solutions, migrating to the ideal.

Don Pfohl mentioned this is a coordination issue. If you go back to the technical subcommittee's recommendation, the 700 MHz backbone is a solid proposal. It doesn't mean that everyone has to go to 700MHz, it means they have established the backbone around the state, and it's basically a three way system of that system. There should be many ways to tie those systems together, and there must be a coordinated plan for that.

Curt Knight mentioned the Technical subcommittee is working on defining the "needs" in an RFP. Discussions were held about a migration plan, and the needs analysis that were expressed in the last PSCC meeting on January 22, 2002. Chief Bennett made a motion to accept the parameters expressed and added additional comments to item 1, seconded by Michael Fusco. Motion passed.

#### Parameters

1. Arizona's ideal configuration would be based on a hybrid 800/700 MHz system statewide. With the assumption that new 700 MHz systems would be compatible with many existing 800 MHz systems in both protocol and subscriber equipment; standards-based with a preference toward Project 25.
2. Preferred migration path(s) for agencies ready to move into the 700 MHz arena, while maintaining existing and planning for improved interoperability.
1. Additions and improvements to be put into place to improve interoperability for legacy systems not able to migrate to the ideal platform.

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1. Role of mobile data in interoperability efforts for Arizona.
1. Requirements of a carrier network to support items 1-4. Ability of the State microwave carrier network to support items 1-4.

### **Open Discussion**

A comment was made that the time frame for the grant funding was pretty aggressive, and questioned whether it was realistic. It was agreed that the time frame was aggressive.

Phoenix area, valley wide fire is coming out of the planning stages and starting to implement the 800 MHz system. They are starting the acquisition phase and hardware phase of the 800 system valley wide. That system will integrate with the 700 MHz system.

Lou Trammell brought up that in the federal budget there is a proposal to provide \$62M to the State of Arizona for the purpose of first responder equipment and telecommunications, etc. Those funds will be available by October. Eighty percent must go to local jurisdictions. There is going to be a question as to how this money will be distributed, and the issue of what can be purchased at the time. There needs to be Regional concepts and partnering to successfully access this funding.

Director Garrett mentioned a resolution is working it's way through the legislature on this subject. David Felix advised that the draft resolution had been simplified. The sponsor is Representative Wes Marsh. Representative Marsh has done a lot of in the area of Homeland Defense. He was asked by Speaker Weiers to run the Bill as a concurrent resolution between the House and Senate. We had to ask for an exemption because they have deadlines and limitations as to when you can actually submit Bills. That was taken to the House Rules Committee, and approved to go ahead and be offered as a Bill. It's basically the legislature endorsing what the PSCC committee has done, and the purpose of the committee. It endorses the need to continue the work. That wouldn't have happened if we hadn't brought them up to speed and had some "champions" in the legislature.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 25, 2002. The Arizona Criminal Justice Commission will host the meeting at 3737 N. 7<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 260, in Phoenix, AZ.

### **Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.